

WAYNE OWENS UTAH - 2nd UISTRICT

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Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, **B.C.** 20515

April 24, 1992

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EXPEDITE

Mr. William K. Reilly, Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 401 M Street, S.W. 20460 Washington, D.C.

EPA's Proposed Listing of Richardson Flat Tailings Tailings Site, Summit County, Utah, on the National Priorities List

Dear Mr. Reilly,

It has been brought to my attention that EPA is proposing to list the Richardson Flat Tailings site in Summit County, Utah, on the National Priorities List. EPA's listing of this site would cause serious consequences in my State and may irreparably damage a vulnerable company that has been a major contributor to Utah's economic strength.

I am particularly troubled by EPA's proposed listing of the Richardson Flat site because such listing appears to contradict the conclusions of EPA's own quantitative, analytical reports concerning the site. For instance, I understand that EPA's 1989 Supplemental Site Inspection Report concludes there is no release to surface water from the Richardson Flat site, and EPA's 1988 Analytical Results Report for Ambient Air and Residential Characterization at Prospector Square, Park City, Utah, concludes that there is no air release of contaminants from Richardson Flat to Prospector Square (the closest population center). Furthermore, there do not seem to be any pressing health risks at the Richardson Flat site, since United Park City Mines Company has, at its own expense, covered almost the entire area with topsoil, seeded and re-vegetated the area, and fenced the entire area.

My initial investigations suggest that a number of procedural and substantive irregularities have occurred in EPA's analysis of the Richardson Flat site. I would like to review them with you and your appropriate staff member. Please advise me of convenient meeting dates so that I might arrange to have the

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appropriate people in attendance at that meeting.

In addition, I request that you carefully review and thoroughly respond to United Park City Mines Company's detailed, site-specific Comments, prior to EPA's expending any funds for Remedial Investigations, Feasibility Studies, or other additional studies at the site. I would appreciate receiving your written confirmation of your agreement to honor my request.

Thank you for you careful attention to this matter.

Constanty

WO:mgp

cc: Jack W. McGraw
Acting Regional Administrator
EPA Region VIII
999 Eighteenth Street, Suite 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

CONTROL SLIP FOR OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SHIVE (1)

CONTROL NO : AL922017

8HWM-SK 511147

DUE DATE: 05/11/92

FROM

: WAYNE OWENS D/UT

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CORRES. DATE: 04/24/92

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

RECEIVED: 04/27/92

ASSIGNED: 04/27/92

SALUTATION : DEAR MR. OWENS:

CLOSED : / /

CONSTITUENT :

SUBJECT

: RICHARDSON FLAT TAILINGS SITE/NPL MEETING/RESPOND TO UNITED

PARK CITY MINES COMPANY'S DETAILED SITE-SPECIFIC COMMENTS

SIGNATURE : ADMINISTRATOR

COURTESY COPIES

ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL COUNSEL ADMIN & RESOURCE MGMT

SOLID WASTE & EMERG RESP AIR & RADIATION

DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT

POLICY, PLANNING & EVALUATION

WATER

REGION 8 OLA/ROBERTS CLA/QUINN

ASSIGNED

: CONG. & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS – $\mathcal{H} \bigcirc S$

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FILES (AL).

IMS: EBM